



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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September 1, 2011

TO: Audit Committee

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION
ON DISABILITIES**

RECOMMENDATION

The Audit Committee recommend to the Board of Supervisors (Board) to extend the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities' sunset review date to April 1, 2015.

BACKGROUND

The Board established and has continued the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities (Commission) pursuant to Los Angeles County Code Chapter 3.28. The Board approved the most recent sunset review date extension in April 2006.

The Commission's duties include:

- Advising the Board on the unique needs of people with disabilities, in areas such as health, employment, education, and public attitudes.
- Conducting studies and making recommendations to the Board to improve policies, systems, and procedures to best serve the interests of people with disabilities.
- Cooperating with organizations seeking to improve services to people with disabilities, and advising the Board on the efforts of other government agencies and private organizations.

- Evaluating the adequacy of existing laws related to people with disabilities, and suggesting necessary legislation for the County to sponsor.
- Studying and reporting on matters referred to the Commission by the Board.

The Commission has 18 members, three appointed by each Supervisor and one appointed by the State Department of Rehabilitation. The Commission members appoint one additional member (between 16 and 24 years of age) to represent youth, and a Board member appoints one member to represent little people (this appointment is rotated among the Supervisorial districts every four years). All Commission members are people who have disabilities, or are sensitive to the needs of people with disabilities.

Commissioners receive \$25 per meeting, not to exceed one meeting per month. The Executive Office of the Board estimates that they spent approximately \$104,000 for Commission stipends, staff support, parking, and services and supplies in Fiscal Year 2009-10.

JUSTIFICATION

The Commission met 34 times between April 2007 and March 2010 (approximately 11 times a year), with an average attendance of 8.2 (46%) members. The Commission recognizes its low average attendance, and is actively working to improve attendance by taking measures to fill vacancies. Although the Commission's average attendance was low, the Commission successfully fulfilled its duties.

During the review period, the Commission's accomplishments included the following:

- Sponsored the Annual Access Awards Luncheon to recognize individuals and private/public entities that contributed to the advancement and promotion of equality for people with disabilities. From 2007 to 2009, the luncheons raised approximately \$34,000, which the Commission used for the Bill Tainter Scholarship Program, and other events the Commission sponsors as part of its public outreach. From 2007 to 2009, the Tainter Scholarship Program awarded a total of \$25,000 to 15 graduating high school students with disabilities.
- Hosted a monthly radio program that provided discussion forums and information about issues/events related to people with disabilities. Representatives from agencies such as Access Services, Disability Rights Legal Center, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), and the Social Security Administration participated in the program, and addressed questions from the public.

- Participated in various public events to promote disability awareness. During these events, Commissioners distributed brochures about County resources for people with disabilities and answered questions from the public.
- Advocated to the Board to ensure the County recognized October as Disability Awareness Month, and the third Wednesday in October as Disability Mentoring Day. These events promote disability awareness, and access to employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
- Created and annually updated a booklet of public services for people with disabilities.
- Worked with various agencies to address public transportation complaints, wheelchair safety measures, and disabled placard fraud and abuse to improve public transportation services for people with disabilities.

The Commission's objectives for the next review period are to continue to:

- Participate in community events and outreach efforts.
- Update the Commission's website with County and State resources for people with disabilities, and create informational publications.
- Work with the Board to identify, support, and address disability issues.
- Ensure that barriers and issues that affect people with disabilities are addressed in the County.
- Advocate for the rights of people with disabilities.
- Sponsor the Annual Access Awards Luncheon and Bill Tainter Scholarship Program.

Please call me if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Robert Campbell at (213) 253-0101.

WLW:JLS:RGC:TK

Attachments

c: John Troost, Chair, Commission on Disabilities
Janet Logan, Chief, Board Operations
Angie Johnson, Chief, Commission Services

COMMISSION SUNSET REVIEW
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
REVIEW COMMENTS

Mission. (Does the mission statement agree with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

The stated mission is as set forth in the ordinance establishing the Commission.
CONCUR.

Section 1. Relevance. (Is the mission still relevant and in agreement with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

The Commission advises the Board on the unique needs of people with disabilities, in areas such as health, employment, education, and public attitudes. The Commission also makes recommendations to the Board to improve policies, systems, and procedures to best serve the interests of people with disabilities. In addition, the Commission works with organizations seeking to improve services to people with disabilities. The Commission also evaluates the adequacy of existing laws related to people with disabilities, and suggests necessary legislation for the County to sponsor.

The Commission's mission appears to be **RELEVANT.**

Section 2. Meetings and Attendance. (Are required meetings held and is attendance satisfactory?)

The Commission met 34 times between April 2007 and March 2010 (approximately 11 times a year), with an average attendance of 8.2 (46%) members. The Commission recognizes its low average attendance, and is actively working to improve attendance by taking measures to fill vacancies. Although the Commission's average attendance was low, the Commission successfully fulfilled its duties.

The Commission's meeting frequency is **SATISFACTORY**, while the Commission's attendance is **UNSATISFACTORY.**

Sections 3 and 4. Accomplishments and Results. (Are listed accomplishments and results significant?)

During this review period, the Commission's accomplishments included the following:

- Sponsored the Annual Access Awards Luncheon to recognize individuals and private/public entities that contributed to the advancement and promotion of equality for people with disabilities. From 2007 to 2009, the luncheons raised

approximately \$34,000. The Commission used the funds for the Bill Tainter Scholarship Program and other events the Commission sponsors as part of its public outreach. From 2007 and 2009, the Tainter Scholarship Program awarded a total of \$25,000 to 15 graduating high school students with disabilities.

- Hosted a monthly radio program that provided discussion forums and information about issues/events related to people with disabilities. Representatives from agencies such as Access Services, Disability Rights Legal Center, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), and the Social Security Administration participated in the program, and addressed questions from the public.
- Participated in various public events to promote disability awareness. During these events, Commissioners distributed brochures about County resources for people with disabilities and answered questions from the public.
- Advocated to the Board to ensure the County recognized October as Disability Awareness Month, and the third Wednesday in October as Disability Mentoring Day. These events promote disability awareness, and access to employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
- Created and annually updated a booklet of public services for people with disabilities.
- Worked with various agencies to address public transportation complaints, wheelchair safety measures, and disabled placard fraud and abuse to improve public transportation services for people with disabilities.

The Commission's accomplishments and results are **SIGNIFICANT**.

Section 5. Objectives. (Are the objectives compatible with the mission and goals and relevant within the current County environment?)

The Commission's objectives for the next review period are to continue to:

- Participate in community events and outreach efforts.
- Update the Commission's website with County and State resources for people with disabilities, and create informational publications.
- Work with the Board to identify, support, and address disability issues.
- Ensure that barriers and issues that affect people with disabilities are addressed in the County.

- Advocate for the rights of people with disabilities.
- Sponsor the Annual Access Awards Luncheon and Bill Tainter Scholarship Program.

The Commission's future objectives appear **RELEVANT**.

Section 6. Resources. (Are the resources utilized by the entity in support of the entity's activities warranted in terms of the accomplishments and results?)

Commissioners receive \$25 per meeting, not to exceed one meeting per month. The Executive Office of the Board estimates that they spent approximately \$104,000 for Commission stipends, staff support, parking, and services and supplies in Fiscal Year 2009-10.

The Commission's expenses appear **WARRANTED**.

Section 7. Recommendation.

EXTEND THE SUNSET REVIEW DATE FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES TO APRIL 1, 2015.

Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities Attendance Record

Commissioner	Nominated by:	6/30/07	9/30/07	12/31/07	3/31/08	6/30/08	9/30/08	12/31/08	3/31/09	6/30/09	9/30/09	12/31/09	3/31/10	Totals	% Attended
	Number of Meetings per Quarter	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	34	
Alexia Teran	1st District	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	30	88%
Mary Chambers	1st District	2	2	1	1	1								7	50%
Richard O. Krzyzanowski	1st District	3	1											4	80% (1)
Vacant	1st District			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Vacant	1st District						0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Vacant (Little Person)	1st District	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Janet A. Neal	2nd District	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	34	100%
John B. Troost	2nd District	3	2	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	32	94%
Ernest T. Hamilton, Jr.	2nd District	0												0	0%
Maria Mustelier-Parrish	2nd District				2	3	1	2	3	2	1	1	2	17	68%
Vacant	2nd District		0	0										0	0%
Bernard "Bud" Siegel	3rd District	3	3	2	2	3	2	1	1					17	77%
John R. James	3rd District											3	3	6	100%
Kecia Brooke Weller	3rd District	3	3	3	1	3	1	1	2	0	2	2	0	21	62%
Sheila Wright	3rd District	2	2	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	3	2	1	21	62%
Vacant	3rd District									0	0			0	0%
Harley D. Rubenstein	4th District	3	1	2	2	3	3	1	1	3	2	1	2	24	71%
Michael G. Gureckas	4th District	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	3	2	0	2	0	10	29%
Wendy Lee Welt	4th District	3	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	1	3	1	2	15	44%
Donna Pomerantz	5th District	2	3	3	2	2	2	2						16	84%
Vacant	5th District								0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Vacant	5th District	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Vacant	5th District	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Vacant (Youth)	LA County Commission on Disabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Wan Chun Chang	State Department of Rehabilitation	2	3	2	2	3	3	1	3	3	2	0	1	25	74%
Totals		32	26	22	20	33	24	15	27	20	22	19	19	279	
Average Attendance Per Meeting														8.2	

Legend:

□ Vacancy filled or Commissioner did not serve during this period.

(1) Commissioner resigned after the Commission held two of three meetings for the quarter ended September 2007. Percentage based on number of meetings Commissioner was active on Commission.

